Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 432 I.

DATED 15 May 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Periyar Irrigation: Pro: Revenue Deptt recording Board's Pro: reviewing the progress report from the Special Dy. Collector for the quarter ending 30th September 1898 recorded.

Public Works (1899) Department.

Irrigation

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SUBJECT.

Recording B.P. reviewing the prosperous report from the special dy Collr. Periyar Irrigation for the third quarter of 1898

Issue

The Chief Engr for I

Supg Engr. Circle

Ex. P.W.D.

Requisition sent to Head of Dept for 35 ... on 15-5-99

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.	1899.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

Printed February th.

Proceedings, No. 25, 24th January 1899.

JANUARY.

Periyár Irrigation.—Reviewing the progress report from the Special Deputy Collector, — , for the quarter ending 30th September 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. M. TIRUMALAI PILLAI AVARGAL, Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, to the Collector of Madura, dated 10th November 1898, Dis. No. 151-R. :—

I have the honour to submit my progress report for the quarter ending 30th September 1898.

2. *Disposal of darkhasts.*—The darkhasts in all the villages of Madura and Mélúr taluks affected by the Periyár, having been disposed of, there was no village to be taken as a whole for enquiry except a few cases here and there which were disposed of during the quarter. The portions of fields assigned on darkhast are now being surveyed by the Survey Department, and the sub-division work is in progress in the Madura taluk, the survey of sub-divisions of 32 villages in the Mélúr taluk, having been already completed.

3. *Disposal of applications for loans.*—During the quarter under report, 199 applications involving an amount of Rs. 40,718–8–0 were received and the total number of applications that had to be disposed of during the quarter including the cases pending at the end of the previous quarter was 512 involving an amount of Rs. 1,02,803–8–0. Of these, 66 applications involving an amount of Rs. 15,750 were rejected for various reasons and 49 applications involving an amount of Rs. 11,474 were accepted during the quarter under report, leaving a balance of 397 applications involving an amount of Rs. 73,994–8–0. Including the cases that awaited payment at the end of the previous quarter, the number of cases in which advances were made during the quarter was 69 and the total amount advanced including payment of second instalment was Rs. 17,672–8–0 against Rs. 33,325 in the previous quarter. Steps are being taken for the disposal of the remaining cases, and every endeavour is also made to explain to the ryots the advantages of State loans and the revised rules framed under the Loans Acts. I have already stated that there is some delay in granting loans, as the Government has now ordered that encumbrance certificates should be obtained in all cases including those in which the lands to be improved are offered as security. Though I have requested the Registrar of Assurances to furnish me with the required certificates without delay, yet it is unavoidable. Most of these cases have to be sent back to the Revenue Inspectors for enquiry on alleged encumbrances. For, as I have reported to you in paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 229-C., dated 25th September 1898, searches have to be made from the organization of the Registration Department and the indexes of previous years have been written in various ways. Several paimash numbers have been merged in a survey field at settlement, and it is therefore inevitable that several encumbrances that do not affect the property in question have to be shown in the certificate. Deducting the amount of Rs. 40,000 surrendered for utilization in other districts, the amount available for disbursement to ryots holding lands in the Periyár-affected area is Rs. 2,09,900 for the current year. Out of this sum, Rs. 50,997–8–0 have been advanced up to the end of the quarter under report, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,58,902–8–0. The sales of waste lands have been recommended to be stopped for six months to come, and I am therefore afraid that it will be impossible to utilize the whole of the amount before the close of the current year. However, I shall try my best and report further on whether there would be any necessity to surrender a portion of the allotment.

4. *Laying out of distributaries.*—During the quarter under report, applications from the Public Works Department for lands to be acquired for the 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th distributaries under the 12th Branch channel and for three minor distributaries under the Thandalai off-take, 4th Branch channel and for some other minor works, were received. The lands required for the five distributaries under the 12th Branch

channel have been measured and draft declarations and schedule for the acquisition of the same have also been submitted to you for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. During the quarter under report, lands required for 25 distributaries were measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors and the total extent measured by them was 54·42 acres. Compensation for lands acquired for two distributaries under the 9th Branch channel and for some minor distributaries under the 2nd Branch channel was settled and paid, and the total amount of compensation disbursed to the parties during the quarter including old cases which were pending previous to the quarter was Rs. 1,743–14–0 against Rs. 1,953–2–8 in the previous quarter. The remaining cases are receiving prompt attention. Owing to heavy sales during the quarter, the special officers had to devote their chief attention to them and that is the cause for the slight fall in the turn-out under loans and compensation compared with the previous quarter.

5. *Sales of waste lands.*—During the quarter under report, assessed waste lands to the extent of 942·96 acres in thirteen villages in the Madura taluk and of 419·11 acres in five villages in the Mélúr taluk were sold for Rs. 92,653 and the results of the sales have been reported to you then and there on the completion of the sales of lands in each village. A general report on the results of the sales of waste lands that had been posted for the previous quarter and for the quarter under report has also been submitted to you in my letter, Dis. No. 105-R., dated 16th October 1898. Up to date, waste lands measuring acres 4,808·01 have been sold for Rs. 4,20,492 in 63 villages. There remain for sale waste lands (acres 6,695) in 42 villages in the Madura taluk and acres 10,102 in 27 villages in the Mélúr taluk. Of this, from one-third to one-half will not be available for sale being unirrigable and required for communal purposes. The actual extent available for sale will therefore be approximately acres 10,000 besides the tank-bed lands. The Special Executive Engineer wrote to you at the end of September last that it would be desirable to postpone further sales of waste lands for six months and assigned various reasons therefor. The Engineer's letter was forwarded to me for my remarks, and I have accordingly recommended the postponement of sales for six months (*vide* my letter, Dis. No. 251-D., dated 16th October 1898).

6. *Whole inam and zemin tanks supplied with Periyár water.*—During the quarter under report, Periyár water was supplied on application to 68 zemin and inam tanks, covering an extent of 3,691·66 acres and the total number of applications received up to the quarter was 137, covering an extent of 10,117·29 acres. Besides these applications, 83 applications for Periyár water to dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages were also received during the quarter and 47 of them were complied with by the Public Works Department before the receipt of your order, Dis No. 32-R., dated 7th July 1898, on the question of supply of Periyár water to the dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages. In those cases necessary kararnama is being taken from the applicants.

7. *Prospects of extension of wet cultivation and the attitude of the ryots.*—During the quarter under report, 1,215 applications for Periyár water for converting about 4,060·75 acres of dry land into wet were received and almost all of them have been accepted. The total number of applications received up to the quarter was 1,300, covering an area of 4,310·75 acres. There is much scope for larger extension of cultivation and the people are ready to bring their lands under wet cultivation. But this depends upon the completion of all the distributaries by the Department of Public Works, and I have been addressing that department very often.

8. *Extension of second-crop cultivation.*—The effect of continued notice and explanation of the practices in the adjoining districts of Tinnevelly, Trichinopoly and Tanjore of raising a short crop during the south-west monsoon have had some effect and in several villages a crop has already been raised and harvested and second cultivation made. The short crop fortunately yielded a good outturn and the ryots seem to be anxious to extend the experiment. But Periyár water was let in only in the beginning of June and it took some days to reach many villages. All the cultivation operations had to be begun thereafter, and the harvest therefore fell in October and even in the beginning of November. Owing to heavy rain in September and October,

some of the crops were damaged, and the ryots not being accustomed to this state of things, some of them are discouraged and want to fall back upon their own practice. If the shutters at Periyár head sluice can be fixed in time this year at least, and water let down in May to raise seedlings, I believe, the ryots would take advantage of it.

9. This year the Periyár project has gone through a severe test and has come out successful. The south-west monsoon was a failure in the southern portion of the Presidency; and Tinnevelly district, whose sources are the same as those of the Periyár, suffered most. It is said that during the memory of living man, the Tambraparni did not suffer such drought in the south-west monsoon as in this year and many villages depending on its irrigation became total shavi. In the Periyár basin also rain was very deficient. We have no rain-gauge in the actual catchment area itself, but the one maintained at Theckady may be taken as some test. In 1896, June and July, there have been registered 68 inches of rain at Theckady and, during the same months in 1897, 36 inches, while during the corresponding two months of the current year only 23 inches have been registered. The lake level at the end of July 1896 was $150\frac{1}{2}$ feet; in 1897, 144 feet; while in 1898, it was only $133\frac{3}{4}$ feet. Owing to this failure of the south west monsoon, the lake went down to 122 feet in September, and great anxiety was felt for the standing crops depending entirely on channel irrigation. But fortunately, there was a little more of rain than the usual quantity in September and October at Periyár, and the lake has risen to 136·75 now against 144 in previous years at this date. Though we are not altogether free from anxiety, we can be safe about the standing crops. The people have now good confidence of the Periyár, and I believe they consider it superior to Tambraparni and Cauvery. I append a statement showing the rainfall and lake level during the last three years. I beg to submit that it may be advisable to establish a rain-gauge in some village at the catchment area of the Periyár.

10. The revised calculations made by the Tahsildars of Madura and Mélúr show that the Periyár increase reported by them for faslis 1306 and 1307 were in no way excessive, and I am confident that continued increase may be expected in future years. Conversion of dry into wet and the raising of short crop during the south-west monsoon seem to find favour with the ryots. The waste lands sold are also being cultivated and there seems to be an inclination to believe that they are good investments. But these and other items of increase necessary to swell Periyár revenue depend entirely upon the following which you have been kind enough to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue:—

(i) It is necessary that the shutters for the head sluice at Periyár should be provided as soon as possible to have a control over the water. Your predecessor wrote on 16th December 1897, in No. 4750, to the Board of Revenue as follows:—

" Before going on leave I beg to put on record the absolute necessity that exists for getting the sluice work at the Periyár tunnel promptly executed, so that there may be no delay in sending down water. Any delay would have the most disastrous effect." The Board was pleased to submit it for the " earnest " consideration of Government; and the Government, Public Works Department, passed immediate orders for the same. The work was put in hand and vigorously carried on, but as the shutters did not arrive in time from England, the work had to be postponed for the next year. I hope that the shutters will be put in time in the beginning of 1899 at least.

(ii) For the extension of irrigation and second crop and good sale of waste lands, it is necessary that all distributaries and channels should be excavated as soon as possible. Your predecessor was kind enough to bring it to the notice of the Board and requested that the hands of the Special Executive Engineer should be strengthened, as he complained of want of establishment. The Board has been pleased to submit it to Government with its support.

The Department of Public Works construed paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 698-I., dated 17th August 1896, as relieving it of all concern with distributaries intended to irrigate less than 50 acres. This caused a good deal of inconvenience and hardship to purchasers of waste lands and other ryots and gave considerable work and annoyance

to the officers of the Public Works Department and Revenue Department. The Board has been pleased, on your recommendation, to submit to Government that these small distributaries and channels should also be undertaken by Government (*vide* your R.O C. No. 1887, dated 15th August 1898). Early orders on these two subjects will increase the utility of the project.

(iii) Even before the opening of the project, Mr. Clogstoun and other officers that investigated and knew the country recommended that roads should precede Periyár water. But it is now four years since it has actually come and it will be difficult to describe the existing means of communication and the hardship experienced by the ryots. All the old country paths that passed through patta dry lands and porambokes have been cut up more or less and in many places they are mere water-courses. The ryots feel great difficulty in bringing manure to their fields and carting their produce to the market. Extension of second crop and value of waste lands depend mostly upon the means of communication. I beg to submit that it will be much to the interest of Government to help the District Board in making these roads. The District Board has already resolved to devote all the extra revenue due to the Periyár project for the construction and maintenance of roads in the Periyár affected area and estimated the cost at 5 lakhs of rupees and requested Government to give the amount in a number of years and make its own terms for repayment from the surplus revenue. You have already been pleased to support the request of the District Board. Much will depend upon the sympathy of Government.

11. *General Remarks.*—There were heavy sales during the whole of the quarter under report and the special officers and the Division Tahsildars worked very hard to make them a success.

Endorsement by C. J. WEIR, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated 30th November 1898, R. O. C. No. 302-A. (Genl.)

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras.

2. The correct amount involved in the loan applications pending at the end of the quarter under report amounts to Rs. 1,18,343-8-0 as shown in the margin and not to Rs. 1,02,803-8-0 as stated in paragraph 3 of the foregoing report. The Special Deputy Collector has been requested to explain this discrepancy. As regards the delay pointed out by the Special Deputy Collector in obtaining encumbrance certificates, it is observed from paragraph 3 of B.P., No. 402, dated 26th October 1898, that the Board has already suggested in its B.P., No. 5653, dated 20th September 1898, that it will be sufficient to limit searches to twelve years. The sanction of Government to this proposal is awaited.

	RS.	A.
1. Amount involved in applications pending at the end of the last quarter (*vide* paragraph 3 of Special Deputy Collector's letter, Dis. No. 65-R., dated 30th August 1898, printed in B.P., No. 402-R.S., dated 26th October 1898	77,625	0
2. Amount involved in the applications received during the quarter	40,718	8
Total ...	1,18,343	8

3. *Paragraph* 5.—The postponement of the sales of Government waste lands has been recommended in this office Ref. on Cur. No. 2935-Gl., dated 8th November 1898.

4. *Paragraph* 9.—As regards the establishment of a rain-gauge in the catchment area of the Periyár, I shall address the Executive Engineer.

5. *Paragraph* 10.—It is most important that arrangements should be made to have the shutters to the head sluice at Theckady put up within the close of this season ; and to this end the Chief Engineer may be moved to make the necessary arrangements at once so that the head sluice may be opened before the 15th May next. In this connection attention is solicited to Mr. Twigg's remarks quoted by the Special Deputy Collector and to B.P., Mis. No. 10083, dated 20th December 1897. As regards the strengthening of the Department of Public Works staff and the construction of field channels by Government even for tracts of less than 50 acres, I request that the early orders of Government may be obtained in order to secure

quicker returns from the project. It is also very desirable that early orders of Government on the District Board's proposals regarding the village roads should issue (*vide* this office Ref. on C. No. 2958-Gl., dated 5th November 1898).

ENCLOSURE.

COMPARATIVE statement showing the rainfall and lake level in the Periyár during the three years 1896, 1897 and 1898.

Month.	1896.		1897.		1898	
	Rain.	Lake level.	Rain.	Lake level.	Rain.	Lake level.
	INCHES.	FEET.	INCHES.	FEET.	INCHES.	FEET.
May	2·28	..	3·25	125 90	2·85	123·60
June	44·28	137 70	24·90	144 80	12·30	127·90
July	23·82	150·50	11·80	144·10	10·97	133·80
August	6·14	143·35	11·35	147·05	1·10	132·85
September	2·60	137·50	2·75	141·05	3·25	122·40
October	6·25	138·60	8·05	139·90	13·85	133·95
November	9·15	144·80	13·20	144·20	..	136·75 (on the 14th November).
December	5·60	144·05	0·55	137·15	..	..
January	Not available.		..	136·15	0·95	127·45
February	Do.		2·70	127·10	0·95	122·00
March	Do.		0·75	123 40	0·25	122·95
April	Do.		2·10	125·25	0·45	122·65

REMARKS.—The sill level of the tunnel is 115 feet, but it is supposed that water above 117 feet only will be available.

RESOLUTION—No. 25, dated 24th January 1899.

With the endorsement read above, the Collector of Madura submits the progress report of the Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, for the quarter ending 30th September 1898.

2. The Special Deputy Collector reports that, during the quarter under review, a few darkhast cases pending in some villages of Madura and Mélúr taluks were disposed of, that portions of fields assigned on darkhast are being surveyed by the Survey Department and that the sub-division work is in progress in the Madura taluk.

3. The following statement shows the disposal of applications for loans during the quarter under report as compared with that during the preceding quarter :—

—	Applications pending at the beginning of the quarter.		Applications received.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.
Quarter ending 30th June 1898 ..	376	68,085 0 0	208	40,900 0 0	584	1,08,985 0 0
Do. 30th September 1898.	313	70,790 0 0	199	40,718 8 0	512	1,11,508 8 0

—	Applications rejected.		Applications accepted.		Applications pending.		Amount disbursed in the quarter.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Quarter ending 30th June 1898 ..	110	11,730 0 0	161	26,465 0 0	313	70,790 0 0	33,325 0 0
Do. 30th September 1898.	66	15,750 0 0	49	11,474 0 0	397	84,284 8 0	17,672 8 0

The Collector states in paragraph 1 of his endorsement that the correct amount involved in the applications that had to be disposed of during the quarter under review (not in the applications *pending at the end of the quarter* as stated in the endorsement) comes to Rs. 1,18,343–8 * and not to Rs. 1,02,803–8–0 as stated by the Deputy Collector. The Collector here assumes that the amount involved in respect of applications pending at the beginning of the quarter was Rs. 77,625; but it was pointed out in paragraph 3 of B.P., No. 402, dated 26th October 1898, that the correct amount according to the details given in the Deputy Collector's report should be Rs. 70,790, and an explanation of the discrepancy was called for. A similar discrepancy is noticed in the present report; according to the details furnished in the report, the amount involved in the applications pending at the end of the quarter should be Rs. 75,579–8–0 and not Rs. 73,994–8–0 as stated by the Deputy Collector. As compared with the previous quarter, there was an increase in the number of applications pending at the end of the quarter under review, and the Deputy Collector states that the delay in the disposal of these applications was due to the same causes as those mentioned in his report for the previous quarter. The orders of Government have not yet been received on B.P., No. 5653, dated 20th September 1898, recommending that the searches in registration records may be limited to twelve years. The sales of waste lands having been recommended to be postponed, the Deputy Collector fears that he will not be able to utilize the balance of Rs. 1,58,902–8–0 that remains at his disposal. It is observed that the Collector has since surrendered Rs. 61,550 out of this amount.

	RS.	A.
* Amount of applications pending at the end of the previous quarter	77,625	0
Amount of applications received during the quarter	40,718	8
Total ...	1,18,343	8

4. Applications for lands to be acquired for five distributaries under the 12th Branch channel, for three minor distributaries under the Thandalai Off-take, 4th Branch channel, and for some other minor works were received during the quarter. The lands for the five distributaries under the 12th Branch channel were measured during the quarter, and the necessary notifications for the acquisition thereof published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Lands required for 25 distributaries were measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors, the total extent measured by them being 54·42 acres. Compensation for lands acquired for two distributaries under the 9th Branch channel and for some minor distributaries under the 2nd Branch channel was settled, and a total amount of Rs. 1,743–14–0 was paid to parties during the quarter against Rs. 1,953–2–8 in the previous quarter. The slight fall in the outturn of work under this head and under loans is attributed by the Special Deputy Collector to attention, having, during the quarter, been devoted chiefly to the sales.

5. An extent of 942·96 acres of assessed waste lands in thirteen villages in the Madura taluk and of 419·11 acres in five villages in the Mélúr taluk was sold for Rs. 92,653. The Deputy Collector states that up to the date of his report 4,808·01 acres of waste lands had been sold for Rs. 4,20,492 in 63 villages, leaving 6,695 acres in 42 villages of Madura and 10,102 acres in 27 villages of Mélúr taluk. Of this extent, he estimates that the actual area available for sale will approximate acres 10,000. The sales, however, as already observed, have been postponed till April next. The Executive Engineer recommended this postponement in order that the Public Works Department might have time to provide complete means of irrigation in the villages in which lands have already been sold as well as those in which the sales have yet to be held and in the expectation that better prices will be realized if channels are first excavated and the sources of supply made visible to the ryots. The Special Deputy Collector and the Collector having concurred in this view, the Board in the Land Revenue Department has, in its Proceedings, No. 3660, dated 21st December 1898, accepted the proposal to postpone further sales till April next.

6. Sixty-eight zemin and inam tanks irrigating a total extent of 3,691·66 acres were supplied, on application, with Periyár water during the quarter. The total number of applications received up to the end of the quarter was 137 for an irrigable area of 10,117·29 acres. In addition to this, 47 applications out of 83 received for

the supply of Periyár water to dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages were complied with by the Public Works Department before the receipt of the Collector's order approved in paragraph 7 of B.P., No. 402, dated 26th October 1898, that such applications should, for the present, be refused.

7. During the quarter under review, 1,215 applications, against 85 in the previous quarter, were received for converting 4,060·75 acres of dry lands into wet. The total number of applications received up to the end of the quarter was 1,300 for an area of 4,310·75 acres. The Deputy Collector reports that there is much scope for extension of wet cultivation, but that this depends upon the completion of all the distributaries by the Public Works Department.

8. The efforts made by the Special Deputy Collector towards inducing the ryots to raise a short crop during the south-west monsoon are fully described in paragraph 8 of his report. The Board considers that the results achieved so far are encouraging.

9. The Deputy Collector appends to his report a statement showing the statistics of rainfall as registered at the rain-gauge at Theckady during the last three years, and suggests that it will be advisable to establish a rain-gauge in some village in the catchment area of the Periyár. The Collector, in paragraph 4 of his endorsement, states that he will address the Executive Engineer on the subject.

10. The Deputy Collector's remarks in the opening sentence of paragraph 10 of his report refer to certain revised calculations made by the Tahsildars of Madura and Mélúr to show the increase of revenue due to Periyár Irrigation for faslis 1306 and 1307. These calculations are under scrutiny in the Board's office. For the full development of Periyár revenue, the Deputy Collector considers that the following measures should be carried out:—

(1) The provision of shutters for the head sluice at Periyár to control the water-supply as recommended by Mr. Twigg in his letter disposed of in B.P., No. 10083, dated 20th December 1897.

(2) The excavation, at an early date, of all the distributaries and channels.

(3) The provision of suitable village roads and other means of communication by which ryots will be enabled to convey manure to their fields and to cart their produce to the market.

The attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be invited to item (1) with the request that arrangements may be made to have the shutters put up sufficiently early to admit of the head sluice being opened before the 15th May next.

In regard to item (2) the Board in its Proceedings, No. 4668, dated 2nd August 1898, recommended that the task of aligning the smaller distributaries should be undertaken by the Public Works Department and Government, in its order thereon Mis. No. 324, dated 21st January 1899, has approved the recommendation and stated that the necessary instructions will be issued in the Public Works Department.

The question of the provision of village roads (item 3) is under correspondence with the Board in the Land Revenue Department.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

F./17 2,000—24-11-97.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Copy attached

READ Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement,

No. 25, dated the 24th January 1899.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1521 mis, dated the 24th April 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington

for ~~Under~~ Secretary to Government.

To

The Board of Revenue, Rev: Sett.

Rev. Sett (Irrigation)